

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 20-28 are pending in this application. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 1, 11, and 23 are amended, and new Claims 24-28 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 11, and 23 and new Claims 24-28 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-4, 11, 14, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Glikman et al. (SU 576747, hereinafter “SU '747”) or Glikman et al. (SU 726808, hereinafter “SU '808”); Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 15-18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over SU '747 and/or SU '808 in view of Verlinden et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,392, hereinafter “Verlinden”) and Machlan (U.S. Patent No. 3,622,298). Claims 5-7 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 5-7 include allowable subject matter.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 11, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by SU '747 or SU '808, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon in a forming zone at a temperature well above the softening point of the glass while said thickened lateral edges are in contact with said liquid support.”

In contrast, both SU '747 and SU '808 disclose that molten glass is supported by a support disc or plate 12 while it is cut by a cutting disc 9. Thus, both SU '747 and SU '808 teach that the glass is not in contact with the liquid support while the edges are trimmed.

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 5, lines 17-28 and Figure 2.

Accordingly, neither SU '747 nor SU '808 teach “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon,” as recited in Claim 1.

As neither cited reference teaches each and every element of Claim 1, Claim 1 (and Claims (2, 3, 4, 14/1 and 24/1 dependent therefrom) are not anticipated by either cited reference, and are patentable over both references.

Amended Claims 11 and 23 recite similar elements to Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 11 and 23 (and Claims 14/11, 14/23, 24/11, and 24/23 dependent therefrom) are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 15-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over SU '747 and/or SU '808 in view of Verlinden and Machlan, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, it is respectfully submitted that neither Verlinden nor Machlan teaches or suggests the elements noted above as deficient in SU '747 and SU '808. Accordingly, Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 20, and 21 are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

With respect to Claim 22, Claim 22 recites, “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon in a zone where the glass has a viscosity of between 10^4 and $10^{5.5}$ poise.” The outstanding Office Action asserted that “it is felt that the recitation of temperature and viscosity are merely optimized values depending on the type of glass made, and it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to optimize the cutting of molten glass based on these parameters.”² However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references identifies the viscosity of molten glass as a result effective variable with respect to cutting the molten glass (nor did the outstanding Office Action cite any portion of the cited references as identifying the viscosity of molten glass as a result effective variable).

²See outstanding Office Action, page 4, lines 19-21.

Optimization of a parameter is only routine if the prior art teaches that the varied parameter is a result-effective variable. See *In re Antonie*, 195 USPQ 6, 8-9 (CCPA 1977) and MPEP §2144.05. As only applicants' disclosure teaches that the viscosity of molten glass as a result effective variable, the outstanding Office Action's allegation that "continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon in a zone where the glass has a viscosity of between 10^4 and $10^{5.5}$ poise" is an obvious result of routine experimentation is unsupportable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 22 is patentable over SU '747 and/or SU '808 in view of Verlinden and Machlan.

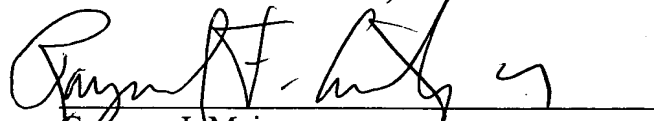
New Claims 25-27 recite in independent form the subject matter of original Claims 5-7, respectively. As Claims 5-7 were indicated as including allowable subject matter, new Claims 25-27 are believed to be allowable.

New Claim 28 includes the subject matter of Claims 6 and 11, written in device format. As Claim 6 was indicated as including allowable subject matter, new Claim 28 is believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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